

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 COME-00 EB-06 LAB-03 SIL-01 /083 W

----- 026294

R 291600Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4122

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0689

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: CAPE TOWN BUSMEN WORK-TO-RULE

1. CAPE TOWN BUS DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS (MOSTLY COLORED) BEGAN WITHHOLD OVERTIME AND WORK-TO-RULE ACTION OCTOBER 25 IN EFFORT GET CITY TRAMWAYS LTD. TO AGREE ON WAGE INCREASES SOUGHT BY THEIR TUCSA AFFILIATED TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS WORKERS UNION. DEPT OF LABOR OFFICIALS ARE ATTEMPTING MEDIATE DISPUTE.
2. UNION OFFICIALS ARE REPORTEDLY SEEKING GREATER COMPARABILITY WITH WAGES PAID FOR SIMILAR WORK IN JOHANNESBURG AND PROTECTION AGAINST INFLATION WHICH HAS WIPED OUT 14 PERCENT INCREASE GAINED IN 1972 AGREEMENT.
3. AFTER MEETING TODAY WITH DIVISIONAL LABOR INSPECTOR, UNION SECRETARY D.C. BENADE TOLD PRESS THAT IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED TO UNION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THAT IT MEET THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL AND CALL OFF WORK TO RULE ACTION. BENADE SAID UNION COMMITTEE HAD REJECTED THIS SUGGESTION.
4. SOME 24,000 COMMUTERS, MAINLY NON-WHITE, ARE AFFECTED BY "GO-SLOW" ACTION AND CANCELLATION OF ABOUT 500 BUS TRIPS,

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WHICH DEPEND UPON OVERTIME WORK DURING WEEKDAYS.

5. COMMENT. INDUSTRIAL ACTION ADOPTED BY UNION HAS NOT YET CAUSED SERIOUS COMPLAINTS FROM INDUSTRY. IMPACT ON COMMUTERS IS UNFORTUNATE AND LIKELY CAUSE INCREASING DISSATISFACTION WITH BUSMEN AS SOME LOSE PAY FOR HOURS NOT WORKED, AND OTHERS RISK LOSS OF SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR GOOD ATTENDANCE WHICH IS PAID UNDER SOME AGREEMENTS. UNION REFUSAL TO PUT CASE BEFORE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL IS APPARENT REJECTION OF ARBITRATION, LEAVING NEXT MOVE UP TO THE COMPANY.
GAMON

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